

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 6 and 7 have been added to round out the scope of protection afforded the invention. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application.

The Specification has been amended as suggested by the Office Action. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that any objections to the Specification be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,415,478 (Watanabe). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

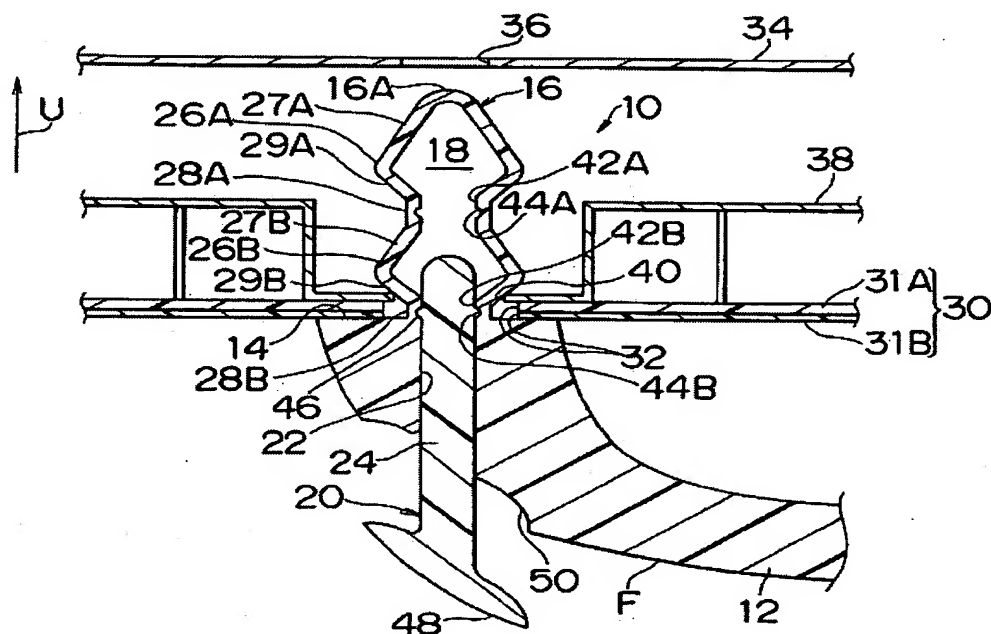
The present invention, as defined in claims 1–6 relates to a module-structure for a roof trim. As such, amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a module-structure for roof trim use comprising “attachment members formed on said accessories, wherein said attachment members are capable of being temporarily accommodated in said bracket, said bracket provided on the back side of the roof trim through openings in the roof trim so that accessories, roof trim and brackets can be temporarily secured without an end portion of the attachment member protruding toward a roof panel from the bracket, said attachment member being protrudable from said bracket for alignment with and insertion into attachment holes in the roof panel, thereby engaging connecting portions of the attachment member with the attachment holes of the roof panel.” The claim 1 module-structure further includes “an inserted body inserted into the attachment members, wherein said inserted body locks the connecting portions of said attachment members by insertion so that said roof trim and accessories are integrally assembled to said roof panel through said bracket.”

New independent claim 6 recites a module-structure comprising, *inter alia*, “an attachment member for fastening said interior accessory and said roof trim, said attachment member having a roof panel engaging portion, said attachment member being coupled with said bracket member and being movable relative to said bracket member to one position where said attachment member temporarily holds said interior accessory to said roof trim and bracket member during positioning of said module-structure relative to a roof panel and another position where said roof panel engaging portion of said attachment member protrudes from a back side of said bracket for engagement with a roof panel and fastening of said roof trim and accessory to said roof panel.” Claim 6 further recites “an inserted body for insertion into the attachment member to lock said engaging portion to said roof panel.”

New independent claim 7 recites an attachment assembly comprising, *inter alia*, “an attachment member for insertion in and engagement with said bracket member, said attachment member being adapted to hold an interior accessory and roof trim to said bracket member as an assembly, said attachment member having an engaging portion for engagement with a roof panel to fasten said assembly to said roof panel, said attachment member being engageable with said bracket member in a first relative position where said attachment member can hold an interior accessory and said interior roof trim together for mounting to a roof panel, and a second relative position where said engaging portion of said attachment member can engage with said roof panel to fasten an interior accessory and said roof trim to said roof panel.” Claim 7 further recites “an insertion body for insertion in the attachment member to lock said engaging portion to a roof panel.”

Watanabe relates to an assist grip attachment structure method. (Abstract). Watanabe discloses an assist grip 10 having a contractible member 16. As illustrated in FIG. 4 of Watanabe (reproduced below), in its “normal state with no force applied

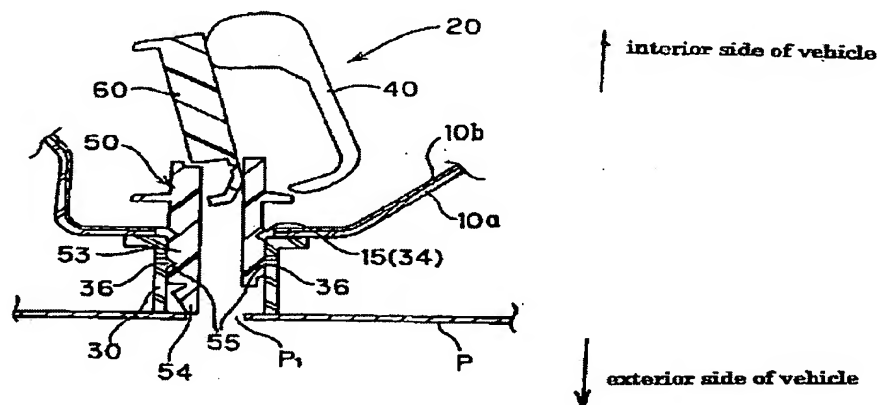
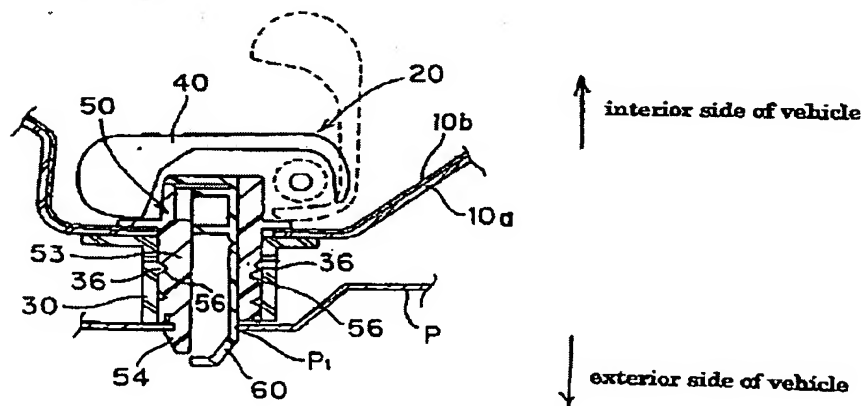
thereto," the inserted pin 20 is "pre-mounted in the grip body 12 of the assist grip 10." Col. 7, ll. 29-30. The contractible member 16 of the assist grip 10 is subsequently inserted into and through the energy absorbent member 38, whereby the assist grip 10 and the energy absorbent member 38 form a single unit. Col. 7, l. 57 through col. 8, l. 4. According to Watanabe, "the assist grip 10 thus assembled as a unit with the ceiling base member, and the EA member 28 [sic] is then attached to the vehicle body 34 . . . [by] forcing the contractible member 16 to pass through the attachment hole 36 in the body 34" Col. 8, ll. 12-17.



Watanabe fails to teach or suggest, however, each and every limitation of claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 recites, and FIGS. 10 and 11 (reproduced below) illustrate as only one exemplary embodiment of claim 1¹, a module-structure comprising "attachment members [50] formed on said accessories, wherein said attachment members [50] are capable of being temporarily accommodated in said bracket [30], said

¹ It should be noted that Applicant does not intend to limit claim 1 by the illustration, but merely to illustrate how one embodiment of the present invention could be implemented.

bracket [30] provided on the back side of the roof trim [10] through openings [15, 34] in the roof trim [10] so that accessories, roof trim and brackets can be temporarily secured without an end portion of the attachment member [50] protruding toward a roof panel from the bracket, said attachment member being protrudable from said bracket for alignment with and insertion into attachment holes [P1] in the roof panel [P], thereby engaging connecting portions [54] of the attachment member [50] with the attachment holes [P1] of the roof panel [P].” For at these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Watanabe.

FIG.10**FIG.11**

Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above, and on their own merits.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe and further in view of U.S. Patent Application 2003/0094828 (Nagamoto). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Watanabe fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. Nagamoto relates to a pillar garnish fastening structure. FIG. 5 of Nagamoto discloses a grommet 55 that is inserted into an inner panel 13a of the front pillar 13. FIG. 5 of Nagamoto also discloses a press-fit pin 57 that is inserted into the grommet 55 and locks the structure into place. See FIG. 4. Nagamoto, however, fails to teach or suggest a module-structure comprising attachment members “attachment members formed on said accessories, wherein said attachment members are capable of being temporarily accommodated in said bracket, said bracket provided on the back side of the roof trim through openings in the roof trim so that accessories, roof trim and brackets can be temporarily secured without an end portion of the attachment member protruding toward a roof panel from the bracket, said attachment member being protrudable from said bracket for alignment with and insertion into attachment holes in the roof panel, thereby engaging connecting portions of the attachment member with the attachment holes of the roof panel,” as recited by claim 1.

Both references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Watanabe and Nagamoto.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above and on their own merits.

New claim 6 is allowable over Watanabe and Nagamoto. Specifically, both references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a module-structure comprising, *inter alia*, "an attachment member for fastening said interior accessory and said roof trim, said attachment member having a roof panel engaging portion, said attachment member being coupled with said bracket member and being movable relative to said bracket member to one position where said attachment member temporarily holds said interior accessory to said roof trim and bracket member during positioning of said module-structure relative to a roof panel and another position where said roof panel engaging portion of said attachment member protrudes from a back side of said bracket for engagement with a roof panel and fastening of said roof trim and accessory to said roof panel." For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is allowable over Watanabe and Nagamoto.

New claim 7 is allowable over Watanabe and Nagamoto. Specifically, both references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest an attachment assembly comprising, *inter alia*, "an attachment member for insertion in and engagement with said bracket member, said attachment member being adapted to hold an interior accessory and roof trim to said bracket member as an assembly, said attachment member having an engaging portion for engagement with a roof panel to fasten said assembly to said roof panel, said attachment member being engageable with said bracket member in a first relative position where said attachment member can hold an interior accessory and said interior roof trim together for mounting to a roof panel, and a second relative position where said engaging portion of said attachment member can engage with said roof panel to fasten an interior accessory and said roof trim to said

roof panel." For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is allowable over Watanabe and Nagamoto.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: January 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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